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HISTORY ILLUSTRATED BY NUMISMATICS.

(Continued.)

There was a peculiar style much in vogue at one time by the Greeks, and occasionally made use of by the Romans long afterwards, that is deserving of notice. Indeed, it must have dated from a very early period, inasmuch as it is found on coins of Sybaris, a city that was destroyed 510 B. C. This is what numismatists have called the *incused* style. Upon the punch was cut an exact representation of the design of the die, but in relief, so as when applied it would just fit into the latter. Necessarily, when the coin was stamped, one side would represent the design as usual, and the reverse side, the same design sunken or incused. Milligen has suggested that possibly it had its origin in an attempt to prevent forgery. If so, it was not successful, forgeries now being in existence which are evidently as old as the originals.

All the silver coins which have been mentioned, being of republican origin, are known as *autonomous*, as distinguished from a class now to be considered, which, on account of their being issues of princes, are denominated *regal*. The earliest of the latter now known, and which bear his name, are those of Alexander I, of Macedon, who reigned B. C. 500 to about 460. Several other kings succeeded him each of which has left similar mementos, before Philip II, 359–336 B. C., and his son Alexander III, the Great, 336–323 B. C., emitted from their various mints enormously large numbers of coins in the several metals of gold, silver and copper.

The gold darics are alleged to have been melted up by Alexander to be employed in making his own staters. About this period the Greek art seems to have been at its height, as shown both on the autonomous and regal coins, the authority of the sovereign not interfering with the republican right of the city to issue its money quite independently.

After the death of Alexander the Great, and the establishment, upon the division of his empire, of the powerful lines of the Seleucidan kings in Asia and the Lagidæ or Ptolemies in Egypt, the regular succession is faithfully chronicled in a series of beautiful coins emitted by the successive monarchs. The short-lived power,

too, of Cassander, of Antigonus and of Lysimachus are in like manner commemorated. There is usually around an artistic design a Greek inscription to the effect that it is money of the King Lysimachus, Demetrius, etc., with his portrait on the other side. Upon some coins is recorded, in addition to the above, the assumption of, for instance, "the king, the protector," or "of the beneficent king," or even the blasphemous character of "the illustrious god." Upon the Arsacian coins, a line of kings established through a revolt in some of the provinces of the Syrian empire, denominated Parthia, the vanity and wickedness of title is carried to the most ridiculous extreme: The twelfth Arsaces styling himself "the king of kings, Arsaces the Great, the Just, the Beneficent, the Illustriously born, the Lover of the Greeks." There is abundance of historical interest in these regal coins, but it may be sufficient here to mention that, in the Seleucian or Syrian series, the coins of the Antiochii recall the account given in the Apocryphal book of the Maccabees of several of these kings. Particularly important, as persecutors of the Jews, were Antiochus III the Great and Antiochus VIII, or Gryphus, so called on account of his hook nose, most faithfully represented on his silver coins.

(To be continued.)

ALASKA ANTIQUITIES AND CURIOSITIES.

(Continued.)

LIP ORNAMENTS (STOPPERS) FOR WOMEN.

These stoppers were used, in gradual succession, from the smallest to the largest. At present, they are to be found but rarely in use and then only among females of great age, giving their under lips a plate-shaped appearance of most disgusting ugliness. The younger married women use as a "noli me tangere," a silver needle pierced through the under lip, which is, however, easily removed by the tongue and not always to be seen in its proper place.

LANGUAGE.

The Kaloshians have no written language and apparently never had any. Their oral language is of unique original characters. Necessarily having suffered from those natural influences which bear upon all oral traditions in course of time, and with successive generations, it nevertheless has not the slightest resemblance, either in sound or construction, to any other language spoken in the northwestern part of America and in the adjoining parts of Asia, and even of the Chinook Jargon but a few words and expressions have found their way into the Kaloshian language.

BASKET WORK.

The manufacture of basket work is the only branch of industry practised, at present, by some of the women among the Kaloshians. Their ability in this kind of work is really suprising, but their aversion to labor checks all advantages they could gain by it. When they have finished a piece they rest until their earnings have been

spent, and no persuasion or offers are powerful enough to awaken their industry. Even too lazy to provide for their own wants, only a few wear hats, most of them leaving their heads without any covering whatever.

THE ALEUTIANS.

The Aleutians—a people of Mongolian descent—are scattered over the Aleutian Islands, the islands of Kodiak, St. Paul, St. George and the peninsula of Alaska. They are very industtious and of a gentle and peaceable disposition. Early subjugated by the Russians, they lived, during the continuance of the Russian government, in a state of bondage which we should call worse than slavery. The Russian government treated them, however, with fatherly care: furnished them with the necessary provisions, bestowed upon them the blessing of Christianity, sustained a number of priests and has had schools established for their education. When this despotic (!) government was supplanted by our free, republican institutions, the people became politically free, of course, but they were emancipated from the influence of Christianity and education also, and are now in the hands of a monopolizing firm of very mysterious origin, the known members and local agents of which, are Jews.

ALEUTIAN CANOES AND OUTFITS.

The Aleutian canoe is of seal skin about thirteen feet long. This canoe is managed by one person sitting in the opening of the deck, and dressed in a waterproof shirt which is fastened around the brim of the opening in order to secure not only a firm connection between man and vessel, but a complete exclusion of the water. The canoe, by its extreme lightness, is easily propelled and glides swiftly and safely over the highest breakers of the sea, and even, in the case of capsizing, the man, by a jerk, can easily raise it without danger of losing his hold. It is almost incredible, but nevertheless true, that frequently a single man, using such a canoe, has chased and succeeded in killing a whale. He is able to keep close to the whale and mark the most vulnerable part for the stroke of his harpoon, and to evade, by a swift turn of his canoe, an intended blow of the animal. As a whale cannot strike otherwise than in a downward direction he must, when going to strike, turn flat on one side or the other in order to hit an enemy on the surface of the water, and it is the difficult task of the hunter to change his position according to the direction of the intended blow, and get out of the reach of the tail as swiftly as the whale performs any such movement. No other vessel would be fit for such a task, and no other vessel could stand the power of the aroused waters without being filled or capsized.

The outfit of the canoe consists of the following implements:

A javelin (harpoon), with movable head and swimming bladder. When thrown at the animal, the head of the javelin, upon entering its body, separates from the shaft, and the wounded animal is compelled to drag the latter along with it, by means of the connecting string which keeps the shaft in a continually transverse direction, thus ren-

dering the movements of the animal, especially diving, very laborious. Now the real chase begins; and the frightened animal, vainly trying to get rid of the tormenting impediment by diving, running and all sorts of frantic movements, falls after hours, and sometimes after days of fruitless labor, at last, by mere exhaustion, a prey to his indefatigable pursuer.

Darts, with movable head and swimming bladder.

Darts, without swimming bladder. These darts, constructed on the principle of the javelin, are very powerful missiles and thrown by means of darting boards. The darting boards of the Aleutians, resembling the antrum of the ancient Romans, is used in the following manner: It is held in the right hand; the dart balanced in the left, is rested against the cut at the upper end of the board, from which it is precipitated with the whole force of the right arm.

(To be continued.)

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM.

(Concluded.)

4. C. Obv.—Man plowing with two oxen. "SPEED THE PLOUGH HALF PENNY TOKEN." Rev.—Man threshing grain. "NO LABOUR NO BREAD."

5. C. Obv.—Wreath in half circle. "PERSONNE." Rev.—"DE L'ISLE DE MONTREAL A REPENTIGUY ON LACHESNAYE."

6. C. Obv.—Same as No. 5. Rev.—"DE REPENTIGUY A L'ISLE DE MONTREAL ON LACHESNAYE."

7. C. Obv.—Same as No. 6. Rev.—"DE LACHESNAYE A L'ISLE DE MONTREAL ON REPENTIGUY."

8. C. Obv.—"CHEVAL." Scroll above and below. Rev.—Same as No. 5.

9. C. Obv.—Same as No. 8. Rev.—Same as No. 6.

10. C. Obv.—Same as No. 8. Rev.—Same as No. 7.

11. C. Obv.—"CALECHE." Above and below a rose with three leaves on either side. Rev.—Same as No. 5.

12. C. Obv.—Same as No. 11. Rev.—Same as No. 6.

13. C. Obv.—Same as No. 11. Rev.—Same as No. 7.

14. C. Obv.—"CHARRETTE." Above and below two sprigs of laurel with bow. Rev.—Same as No. 5.

15. C. Obv.—Same as No. 14. Rev.—Same as No. 6.

16. C. Obv.—Same as No. 14. Rev.—Same as No. 7. Clipped.

Nos. 5 to 16, inclusive, were used as toll checks for crossing the bridge known as the *Porteous Bridge*, which was erected in 1808 to connect the islands of Repentiguy with that of Montreal. The bridge was destroyed many years ago. These checks are very rare, a good specimen commanding from $1 to $3.

17. C. Obv.—"FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE." Rev.—"ONE CENT 1855" Edge plain

ORIGIN OF POSTAGE STAMPS.

(Concluded.)

Postage stamps were permanently introduced into France in 1848, having been issued by the republicans. The series, ranging in value from ten centimes to one franc, had as a central device a beautifully impressed head of the Goddess of Liberty. They enjoyed but a limited circulation, and were soon replaced by the stamps of the Presidency, bearing a profile of Louis Napoleon, with the same inscription, which shows how astutely that consummate politician was preparing the public mind for his appearance in imperial effulgence Upon his accession to the empire a new set were emitted, ranging in value from one centime to one franc, but although bearing the same device as the preceding issue, the inscription "Repub. Franc." was changed to that of "Empire Franc." In 1863, a new set were issued, corresponding in value and design to the preceding issue, but with the brow of his Imperial Majesty crowned with the laurel of the Cæsars. These remained current until the fall of the empire in 1870, when the republicans issued a new set similar to those issued in 1848. They range in value from one centime to eighty centimes, and were issued during the siege of Paris from the provisional capital of Bordeaux. The stamps of France are the most complicated and inimitable of all stamps in use. They are usually prepared at the *Hotel des Monnaies*, or mint, in Paris, and are under the control of the state, but yet form a special enterprise. All the stamps of France, both postal and fiscal, with those of her colonies, and Greece, emanate from the same source. The sheets on which these stamps are printed are subjected to four successive operations, the result being sure proof against forgery by the transferring process. After the stamps have been printed, gummed and perforated, they are inspected by the officials, who destroy those showing any imperfections, the remainder being forwarded to the central *Administration des Postes*.

After Prussia had decided to annex to her dominions the French provinces of Alsace and Lorraine, that government issued stamps for their especial use. The design is very simple, indeed, consisting of the numeral of value, with the inscriptions "Postes" and "Centimes," printed upon tinted paper.

Postage stamps were introduced into Belgium on the 1st of July, 1849, two values only—ten and twenty centimes—having been issued. The design was a three-quarter-face bust of the then king, Leopold I. in military uniform. There have been several issues of Belgian stamps, all showing the national arms or portrait of the sovereign.

Following Belgium in the emission of postage stamps came Bavaria in 1849, Austria, Prussia and Saxony in 1850, and the other states at intermediate dates, thus generalizing their use throughout continental Europe. Austria has the honor of having first introduced the "post card," and has been followed in their emission by England, the North German Confederation, Hungary, Belgium, Holland and other coun-

tries. After all that is said about the progress of our own country, does it not strike our Post Office Department that it is rather curious that all these countries should have got out post cards ahead of us? But, unfortunately, such is the fact.

Postal stamps were permanently introduced into Spain in 1850, having been authorized by a royal decree of December 1, 1849. By a ministerial order of December 14, 1849, these stamps were to be manufactured in the national manufactory of deed stamps, and sold by the tobacco vendors, with an allowance of three per cent. The first issued according to the decree consisted of two values, six cuartos and twelve cuartos, to frank home letters. The second issue comprised two sorts, five and ten reals for home, and six reals for foreign postage. They were all similar in design to our illustrations of the six cuartos and five reals. The following year a new set was issued, similar in design to the preceding issue, since which time (except for a twelvemonth when the arms were substituted) a new series has appeared almost annually, bearing the portrait of her Catholic Majesty Isabella II. Some time after the dethronement of her Majesty a new series was emitted by the provisional government, having as a device an impressed head of the Goddess of Iberia. A new set is being prepared, with the portrait of King Amadeus, and *La Correspondencia*, a Cadiz paper, informs us that the designs have much greater artistic merit then their predecessors. The postage stamps of the Spanish colonies are manufactured in Spain, and are forwarded ready for use to the colonies.

Our space is too limited to give a detailed account of all the stamps issued by the countries of the world. We should simply have to describe over three thousand distinct emissions, issued by one hundred and thirty-three different governments. But suffice it to say that nearly all have issued postage stamps.—*Harper's Magazine.*

PERPETUATED ERRORS.

I believe it is the practice with some persons cataloguing a collection of coins, for public auction, frequently to copy descriptions of those pieces about which they have little knowledge other than from catalogues of previous sales. Most commonly this is quite safe; but when a man of the learning of James Oliver makes mistakes such as are about to be noticed, it is not surprising that the errors should be in subsequent catalogues for years. For instance, lot No. 82, in the catalogue of his beautiful family coins, sold in 1868, that of Herrenia, is described on the reverse as "M. HERENNI. Æneas carrying off Anchises." The true explanation is thus given in *Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Biography and Mythology:* "A son carrying his father in his arms has reference to the celebrated act of filial affection of two brothers of Catana, who carried off their aged parents in the midst of an eruption of Mount Ætna." The names of the heroes of this story, which was familiar to me in my boyhood, were Anapius and Amphinomus. Again, the obverse of lot No. 134—

Plautia—is given "Head of the sun, full face." Instead of the sun, a mask is here intended to be represented, as a close inspection easily shows; and as the interesting history given by Humphreys in his Manual, volume I, page 288, confirms. The story is also given in Ovid. Now each of the above mistakes are reiterated in Packer's catalogue, lots 2881 and 2913. Lot 2912, in the same, repeats a common idea that a thorn tree held the black birds, who, with the shepherd, were part of the wolf and twin group, when history alleges it was a fig tree.

As a model for those who hereafter may describe ancient coins, I would like to recommend the clear and elegant descriptions of the pieces in the John Allan silver cabinet sale, a year ago last spring. Who, for example, misapprehends such descriptions as these? "Cordia. Jugate heads of the Dioscuri (Castor and Pollux); rev., Venus standing and holding a balance in her right hand, with a Cupid on her left shoulder." "Claudius. Head of the Emperor; rev., in an oak wreath, 'By decree of the Senate for saving the lives of Citizens.'" "Vespasian. Head, rev., 'Tribune, and for the second time Consul.'" "Vitellius. Emperor's head; rev., a tripod, above which a dolphin. 'One of the fifteen commissioners for consulting the Sibylline books.' Good, rare and very curious."

Cannot the unjustifiable practice of calling cents of 1795 *dies*, be abandoned? In otherwise respectable catalogues this is still persisted in. Hoping that the above remarks may be seasonable, I disclaim any design to be personal, my desire being to give my mite towards instruction in a science that has added much to our knowledge of the history of mankind. \$.

VICISSITUDES OF A NUMISMATIST.

Vaillant, a distinguished numismatic writer, was employed for many years in collecting the rarest and most choice coins for the Royal Cabinet of Louis the Fourteenth. On one occasion, having to go to Rome, he embarked with other Frenchmen of character and distinction, at Marseilles, in a vessel belonging to Leghorn, that was captured at sea by an Algerine corsair, on the day following that of his departure. As France was not then at war with the Dey, Vaillant and his companions consoled themselves that the Algerines would soon set them on shore, at liberty, but the corsair captain excused himself by saying he was too far from the French coast, and had no more provisions than was barely sufficient for his immediate return. The Algerines, therefore, accosting them with "bona pace Francesi," stripped Vaillant and his companions, and carried them to Algiers, where they were treated as slaves. The applications by the French consul for their liberation were constantly resisted by the Dey's insisting on their detention, by reason of there being eight Algerines in the king's galleys, whose enlargement he could not obtain. Vaillant, after being four months and a half a slave, was permitted to return to France, and twenty gold coins, of which he had been de-

spoiled by the corsair, were restored to him. He embarked in a small ship, bound for Marseilles, and after sailing for two days, a Sallee rover was seen advancing towards them the pirate, by means of their oars, baffled every manœuvre made by the sailing vessel to avoid a rencontre, and was soon within cannon shot. Vaillant, in extreme anxiety for the twenty gold coins, jeopardized by his recent captivity, swallowed them without the slightest hesitation; but a breeze at the moment springing up, the vessel quickly darted beyond the reach of the pirate, and was driven upon the coast of Catalonia, where it fortunately escaped becoming a total wreck. The captain subsequently entangled himself among the shores and sand-banks of the Rhone, where he lost his anchors, and Vaillant, in a boat, with much difficulty, reached the shore. The gold coins, which weighed between four and five ounces, were still within him, and greatly incommoded him. He consulted two physicians as to the proper method of relieving himself of them, but singular as it may appear, they differed in opinion, and Vaillant would not adopt the prescription of either. Abstaining from medicine, nature from time to time gave him relief, and he reached Lyons, when he had recovered about half of his treasure. In that city, he hastened to a brother antiquary, one of his numismatic associates, related circumstantially his mishaps, not forgetting the manner of his secreting the coins. He showed his delighted friend those he had in possession, and described those he hourly expected. Among these in the womb of time, was an Otho his friend was most desirous of acquiring, and busily engaged in stipulating with Vaillant for its purchase at a stated sum, forgot to render his friend any assistance, till Vaillant, complying, was with some difficulty enabled that day to fulfil the terms of the contract in rendering the Otho to his enthusiastic friend the Lyonnese collector. The gold coins that Vaillant so singularly preserved, it is stated, were of extreme beauty and rarity, were long religiously revered among the gems of the French cabinet, and were placed in the golden vase until stolen by burglars from that establishment, and the whole melted. Many were deemed uniques, and that appreciation appears to be sustained by few others occurring to repair that loss.

MARYLAND PATTERN SHILLING.

George Calvert, M. P. for Bossiney, in the first Parliament of King James the First, 1603, became Secretary to Sir Robert Cecil, when Secretary of State; was subsequently appointed Clerk to the Privy Council and, in 1617, received the honor of knighthood. In 1618, he was Secretary of State, and was employed by the King in his most important affairs. In the third Parliament, 1620, Sir George was returned for the county of York, the King granting him a pension of one thousand pounds per annum beyond his salary. In the Parliament, 1623, Sir George sat as member for the University of Oxford, when he changed his religion, turned a Roman Catholic, and resigned his office of Secretary of State. The King, nevertheless,

retained him in the Privy Council, and having made him large grants of land in Ireland, created him Baron Baltimore of Baltimore, County Longford, Feb. 20, 1624–5.

While Secretary of State, he obtained from the British Solomon a grant of the province of Avalon, in Newfoundland, with most extensive privileges. He expended, as he asserted, twenty-five thousand pounds on the settlement, and went thither three times during James the First's reign, but the encroachments of the French compelled him to abandon it altogether.

Lord Baltimore then contrived to obtain from King Charles the First a grant of a large tract of land in America, named by the King Maryland, in compliment to the Princess Royal, named Mary, after her mother, Queen Henrietta Maria. While the patent was preparing, Lord Baltimore died, on April 15, 1632; but the same was granted to his son Cecil, and to his heirs, of the provinces of Maryland and Avalon, the patent dated June 20, 1632. The grant was to hold Maryland with the same title and royalties as in Avalon, to hold in common soccage as of the Manor of Windsor, paying yearly, as an acknowldegment to the Crown, two Indian arrows at Windsor Castle, on Easter Tuesday; and the fifth part of the gold and silver ore.

Cecil Calvert, Baron Baltimore, being thus Lord of Maryland, in 1633, constituted his brother Leonard, second son of George, the first baron, as the first governor, conjointly with Jeremy Hawley and Thomas Cornwallis, Esqs. A coinage of money appears to have been intended The dies of a shilling, sixpence and groat were engraved by Nicholas Briot, but are of such extreme rarity that it is evident few were struck, only as pattern pieces, as the circulation is nowhere alluded to among the incidents of the commencement of the settlement of St Mary's, in 1634, by Leonard Calvert and about two hundred other persons.

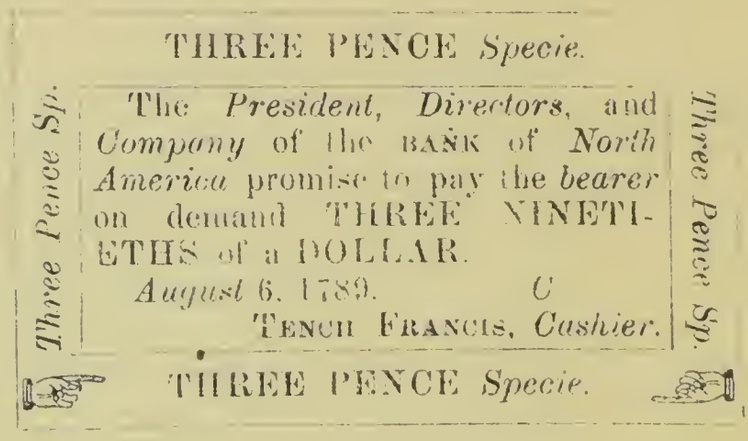
BANK BOOK OF DOCTOR FRANKLIN.

The Oxford (Pa.) Press has been shown some interesting papers of the last century, consisting of a three cent note of the old Bank of North America, the bank book of Dr. Franklin and a check drawn on the above bank by Henry Hill, executor of Dr. Franklin's will.

The bank book shows the accounts of the eminent philosopher and philanthropist from November 29, 1785 to May 13, 1790, and is headed "Bank of North America in account with his excellency Benjamin Franklin, Esq." It is about the size of those used at the present day, but the paper is coarse and rough and the backs resemble stiff pasteboard. The accounts prove the traditional exactness and systematic care of the sage, and, although he may have at times been hampered for means, they exhibit a respectable cash balance in his favor.

The first five entries show a deposit of $4351 30 to his credit, and some of the first entries on the debit side explain that he purchased a share of bank stock of J. Penrose for $390, two shares of Abraham Markoe and five shares of John Hood, at the same price. Opposite to

these he is given credit for two six months' dividends of $96 each, showing that stock in those days did not quite pay six per cent. In 1789, however, the same paid $168 every six months. The note is a quaint and insignificant piece of paper $2\frac{5}{8}$ by $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and for the matter the value of it is very small. The following is a fac-simile of the printing on its face, as near as our modern types will admit:


THREE PENCE *Specie.*
Three Pence Sp.
The *President, Directors*, and *Company* of the BANK of *North America* promise to pay the *bearer* on demand THREE NINETIETHS of a DOLLAR.
August 6, 1789. *C*
TENCH FRANCIS, *Cashier.*
Three Pence Sp.
THREE PENCE *Specie.*

On the back are various ornamental figures in black, red, green and yellow colors, with the words "3 Pence Specie," twice repeated and the name of the printer B. F. Bache.

CHINESE AUTOGRAPHS.

(Concluded.)

The rarest Chinese autographs are those of Wan-hi-sche, a distinguished jurist who flourished toward the end of the third century of our era. These are so peculiar that an expert can decide on their genuineness at a glance. It is related that Wan-hi-sche was so sparing in giving his autograph that it could only be obtained from him by strategy; and it was, therefore, usual to invite him to a dinner of roast goose, of which he was very fond, in order to obtain his coveted signature to a letter of acceptance. At present, the documents written by him are sold for upwards of a thousand dollars.

When a distinguished Chinaman desires to be very gracious, he is sure to present his autograph. Thus, for instance, the imperial commissioner, Ki, presented to the French ambassador, at their first meeting, several fans, worth about five cents, but which excited the envy of the courtiers because His Royal Highness had written several words on them. As a superb present, the Emperor's uncle sent the ambassador an immense sheet of paper, on which he had drawn the single character, *cheu*, which looks like an enormous comet, and signifies "Long life!" In return for this valuable gift, the first Secretary of Legation, M. Ferriere Le Vayer, was required to send an autographic letter of thanks. Among the presents sent by the Emperor to the King of France, the most valuable was supposed to be a complete collection of *fac-similes* of the autographs of all the emperors who have reigned since the dynasty of Han.

CLAY COIN SALE CATALOGUE.

The catalogue of Dr. Clay's collection of coins, medals, etc., prepared by Dr. Charles Clay, Manchester, England, and revised by W. H. Strobridge, Brooklyn, New York, with a view of making a sale, by auction, in the United States of Dr. Clay's remarkable cabinet, is one of the most peculiar books ever presented to the numismatic public. This we believe to be the only catalogue of coins in which the uniform and simple system of arranging the pieces according to denomination has been ignored, and the confusing, inconvenient style of "mixing things" adopted.

For the better understanding of the style approved by the managers of the Clay sale, we refer to pages 49 to 56, inclusive, wherein are catalogued United States cents and half cents, chronologically, it is true, but connected in such a manner that bidders at the sale were frequently led into the error of bidding upon a half cent when the cent was the object of their thoughts and competition. This unusual and inexcusable style of cataloguing, no doubt, confused many bidders at the sale which came off on December 5, 6 and 7, of last year. How simple and convenient the plan heretofore in vogue of arranging cents and half cents under separate heads, and when the former are sold bidders will not be led into the error of buying or bidding on the latter. Again, on page 42, we find United States silver dollars of different dates placed in lots: for instance, lot 509, 1801, 1802 and 1803, being three pieces. Now it is well known that bidders in almost all cases lack certain dates to complete their series, and do not wish to purchase three pieces to obtain a desired date.

We have several complaints from distant bidders upon the two points thus far enumerated, and we fervently hope that the Clay catalogue will be the first and last instance of the introduction of the "mixing" method.

The errors in the Clay coin catalogue are numerous, and one of the most important is that of *over description*, while others consist of typographical blunders and a lack of knowledge on the part of Dr. Clay concerning American coins.

In most, if not all cases, the compiler of the catalogue fell into the common error of describing the periphery or edge of coin with ribs as "milled" instead of "reeded," the proper term. In this connection we would say that many collectors understand "milling" to be the small straight lines on the obverse or reverse, near the edge of the piece, and the ribbing on the edge as "reeded;" the latter term adopted by all the mints in the United States. Without wishing to be factious, and disclaiming any disposition to undervalue the beauty and value of the pieces of the Clay cabinet, it is due our patrons, who bid on certain pieces by the catalogue description, to say that, in many, very many cases, the coins fell far short of description. Thus, in the case of the United States cents, pages 49, 78 and 79, described as proof pieces, when the fact is that neither of these cents could by any possibility of comparison be classed as *proofs*. The 1814 cent, lot 1134,

had a proof surface, produced by rubbing down the field with Scotch stone. This cent realised *four dollars*, and if it had been a *proof* coin, we know a bidder present at the sale who was willing to give fifty dollars for the piece; and we would certainly give twenty-five dollars for each proof cent of this date. Many of the cents were truly beautiful, and deserved all the encomiums the cataloguer could lavish upon them: but noted instances, too numerous for insertion here, wherein the descriptions of "fine," "extremely fine," "uncirculated," and terms approximating these definitions, were entirely and inexcusably erratic, and we can only palliate their employment in connection with the United States cents by attributing the terms to Dr. Charles Clay, the owner, who has apparently a limited knowledge of the condition of coins, and whose errors were too hastily passed over by Mr. Strobridge in the laborious task of preparing the Clay manuscripts for the press.

We approach the ordinary errors of syntax with delicacy, as all persons who undertake the work of cataloguing large collections are led into errors of commission and omission which serve to amuse critics and fault-finders. As we live in a glass house in this respect, we shall refer, as a source of amusement and with the best motives, to this subject. We forebore any allusion to the common, in some respects, pardonable errors of the catalogue until *after the sale*, to avoid any charge of a disposition to underrate the Clay collection, and would say we have the highest respect for Mr. Strobridge's intelligence and knowledge of coins, particularly ancient and modern foreign coins, to impute to him anything but haste and oversight in reading the proofs of the catalogue, and, in justice to this gentleman, we frankly confess he pointed out to us numerous typographical errors in the catalogue, while others we shall allude to will probably first meet his eye in the columns of this journal.

The fatal error of the catalogue, we should say, before giving the amusing and trifling examples alluded to, was the introduction of a number of counterfeit coins among Colonials—notably, a majority of the New England silver coins, and particularly lot 1202, described with great deliberation and detail as a "pattern," "extremely fine and almost unique." This piece was a common electrotype, such as we sell at twenty-five cents, and realised two dollars, while the original is worth, in silver, five hundred dollars. We pause at Mr. Strobridge's "introduction" simply to say "improvement of *young* minds," fourth line, second paragraph, should read "improvement of *younger* minds," as written by the author.

Lot 143.—London Elephant, etc., "*Like the other Elephant piece.*" As there are *four other* Elephant pieces preceding this lot, it puzzles one to determine which *other* is alluded to.

Lot 153.—There is a foot note just here, commencing, "These tokens, etc." As there are *several* different *tokens* preceding the lot, and the usual asterisk is wanting as a guide to the note, it is difficult to designate *which tokens* are alluded to.

Lot 154.—This lot is described as brass, but in the preceding similar lots the metal is not named.

Page 25.—The foot note continued on this page contains a hibernicism, "One in the British Museum, and *this is the other.*"

Page 21.—Under the title AUCTORI PLEBIS is given a variety of pieces not properly coming under this head. Also on page 24, under the head line, FRENCH COLONIAL, follows various Spanish, British and Danish American pieces. Other instances of this kind occur, which could have readily been corrected by the insertion, after the title, of the term "ETC."

Lot 289.—The deductions of Dr. Clay in his note upon the Gloucester token are ingenious and amusing. We regard this lot as one of the most interesting American pieces in the catalogue. The "Banking house" we believe to be Pohick Church, in Virginia, built and attended by General Washington, and if this is the true design on the piece, it is greatly enhanced in value and will be accordingly prized by the lucky purchaser. This should be described as *similar* to Mickley's, not *smaller*, the latter being the printer's error.

Page 29.—Why should the political tokens be called "Shin Plasters?" a term given to the small paper money of 1837 to 1840.

Lots 449 and 450.—These pieces should have been described as the "Clark & Gruber."

Lots 497 and 498.—Should be *California* pieces. These lots led many bidders astray.

Lot 589.—Compiler says it is *immaterial* if this piece is uncirculated as it is so nearly in this condition. We think it very material in the matter of value.

Lot 700.—"Golden color left by the impression of the dies" is good for a copper coin that does not much resemble a gold piece.

Page 58.—A note states what Dr. Clay *thinks*, far more preferable to learn what the compiler knows upon this point.

Lot 890.—Edge *engrailed* not *milled.*

Lot 913.—"Showing the agricultural implements then in use to have been fearfully and wonderfully made." This *hit* is undoubtedly a joke on the part of the compiler and no doubt referred to the engraver instead of the agricultural implements.

Lot 921.—Not a "horn"—simply a break in the die.

Lot 943.—"Not by any means fine." We found this piece *wretchedly poor.*

Lot 964.—*Plain* edge—not *engrailed.*

Lot 992.—Why "*of course, unique?*"

Lot 1025.—This medal, *common* as French or United States mint issues, is described at great length, yet familiar to all collectors, and could be described in three words: "Washington Before Boston."

Lot 1116.—"Liberty cap behind the head." Where should it be?

Lot 1126.—1806 cent—"One of the rarest of the series"—not so.

Lot 1149.—"Uncirculated and bright, but not smooth." Here is richness, and here we will conclude, for the present, the examination.

leaving our readers to point out such errors as they may meet with not here enumerated; advising caution in the selection, or they may get *hit back* by somebody.

WASHINGTON'S WATCH.

Enoch Carter, of Newburg, has in his possession a watch, which was given by George Washington to his betrothed, Mrs. Martha Custis, in 1758. The watch was made in London, is of the "bull's eye" pattern, and has the letters of the above lady's name on the face of the dial—one letter over each figure. The watch was in the possession of some of the relatives in Virginia, but, as one of the results of the late war, it has to be sold with other relics to keep starvation from the door.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE CHIEF COINER OF THE UNITED STATES MINT.

The following correspondence will be read with interest and satisfaction by all collectors of American coins. Of late years, it has been the habit of some coin dealers and collectors to undervalue patterns on the ground that there was no estimating the number struck, and also that the dies were undestroyed and frequently used by those connected with the mint. This opinion, as may be seen from the letter of the chief coiner, has no foundation to support it. We cannot but regret that the valuable collection of old pattern and other dies, of which he speaks, was destroyed without, at least, having impressions taken for the cabinet at the mint, and, whilst we can see no reasonable objection to the officer in charge obtaining for himself impressions from these dies, we cannot but applaud his motive in declining to take advantage of this rare opportunity of securing a choice and valuable collection of pattern and other pieces, which to him would have been of peculiar interest.

In a personal interview with Mr. Snowden, the chief coiner, who has been connected with the mint for many years, he very politely furnished us with all the information in his possession relating to the striking of regular, proof and pattern or experimental pieces, and we are satisfied that every precaution is taken to avoid abuses and to protect the interests of those who purchase coins or possess cabinets. Any irregularities that may have existed in the past are now remedied.

Pattern pieces are now issued under the most stringent regulations. Those which collectors are privileged to buy are strictly limited in number. The purchaser can, therefore, estimate the probable value of the piece in the future, from its rarity. When the number agreed upon is struck the dies are at once defaced.

When the chief coiner gives his assurance, as he does, that all the dies of previous dates are destroyed, and that it is therefore impossible to reproduce any of the old pieces, either regular or pattern, he gives an assurance that every coin collector will know how to

appreciate. The past is at least secure, and for this security we are indebted to the officers in charge of the mint at the time the destruction of the old dies alluded to took place. There was no law requiring their destruction, nor is there any law prohibiting their use, so that their destruction was dictated solely on the grounds of protecting the interests of those having cabinets, and this we know was the controlling motive.

OFFICE COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE, 139 NORTH NINTH STREET.
PHILADELPHIA December 12, 1871.

A. LOUDON SNOWDEN, Esq., Chief Coiner United States Mint:

DEAR SIR: There is an opinion prevalent among some numismatists that the regular coinage and experimental or pattern dies of past dates are now in the United States Mint, and that pieces are frequently struck off from them, thus entailing a loss (by depreciating values) upon collectors who possess cabinets of the different series of United States coins, etc.

Will you oblige by giving us the facts, so that we may judge of the truth of the complaints now so frequently heard in reference to the restriking of United States coins and other pieces at the Mint?

Yours, very truly, E. MASON JR.,
Editor of Mason's Coin Collectors' Magazine.

MINT OF THE UNITED STATES, CHIEF COINER'S DEPARTMENT.
PHILADELPHIA, December 14, 1871.

E. MASON, JR., Esq., Editor Coin Collectors' Magazine:

DEAR SIR: In reply to your communication of the 12th inst., I would state, for the information of all who may have any interest in the matter, that there are no regular coinage or pattern dies in the Mint, of any denomination whatsoever, except those dated 1871.

Shortly after my transfer to the position I now hold, I discovered in one of my vaults a large collection of old hubs and dies, which had been carefully labelled, with engraver's name and date of execution, by one of my predecessors, the late lamented Franklin Peale. This collection included hubs and dies for the various denominations of coin from about the year 1800 to 1855. It was not a complete series of dies, but it embraced either as hubs or dies all the rare pattern pieces executed by Mr. Gobrecht and others. Among the number were several from which no pieces are known to have been struck. Many of the devices were beautiful in design and exquisite in execution. This was peculiarly the case with a dollar and a half dollar hub by Gobrecht.

In the spring of 1869, I consulted with the Director, Dr. Linderman, as to the propriety, indeed importance, for various reasons, of having these hubs and dies destroyed. He fully concurred with me, and, acting under his authority, I had them all defaced by heating in the forge and use of the sledge. Of this large number of dies and hubs, not a single one was ever used to strike a single impression since I have held the office of Chief Coiner. About the same time that this destruction of dies was taking place, Dr. Linderman, to my knowledge, gave orders to the die sinker for the destruction of all the pattern hubs and dies of all dates, and all the regular coinage hubs of old devices and all coinage dies, except those dated 1869, that were then in his safe. This order was faithfully executed; so that when Governor Pollock was reappointed Director, in May of the same year, there was not a hub or die in the Mint except those in actual use upon the coinage for the then current year. Under his directorship (as has been customary for many years), all the regular coining dies used during the year are destroyed at the beginning of the following year, in the presence of the Chief Coiner and Engraver or their representatives.

Since Governor Pollock's reappointment there have been but two (2) series of pattern coins struck which were sold to collectors, viz: the silver halves, quarters and dimes (nine pieces), of reduced weight, dated 1869 and 1870.

The number to be issued was agreed upon between the director and myself before a piece was struck, and the dies were defaced when the number was reached.

Purely experimental dies, from which no pieces are sold, are also guarded with great care. But very few impressions are taken, and if the device, either in design or execution, is not satisfactory, the die is at once destroyed.

From all I can learn it was customary in former years to restrike a limited number of pieces from old dies to oblige collectors and others, and whilst there is no law against the practice it is liable to abuse, and perhaps it is well that the destruction of all the old dies and hubs has entirely removed this temptation.

The idea expressed in your letter that regular coinage and pattern dies of past years are now kept in the Mint, and frequently used, is without the semblance of truth to rest upon. I have answered your letter at some length in the hope that the erroneous impressioms you speak of as being prevalent may be corrected.

I am, very truly,

A. LOUDON SNOWDEN.
Chief Coiner United States Mint.

DR CLAY'S COIN SALE.

December 5, 6 and 7 of last year were a trio of days of great interest to the numismatic brotherhood, for upon those days the celebrated "Clay Cabinet," all the way from "Merrie England," was brought to the auctioneer's rostrum and distributed piecemeal to the highest bidder. George A. Leavitt & Co.'s book trade sales room, Astor Place, New York, was well filled by an attentive and, in all respects, *first class audience* upon each evening of the sale. The auctioneer "spoke a piece" before proceeding with the sale, enumerating the good points of the catalogue, and, in a few well-chosen remarks, expressed his satisfaction at seeing so many veteran coin collectors and familiar faces of days of long ago present; and he was right. There, in a front seat, was Woodward the pioneer—as far as quantity and quality of coin sales are concerned—and next to him sat Strobridge, full of enthusiasm and occasionally boiling over with witty numismatic expressions to the amusement of the audience. Mr. Cogan was in his old place, by the side of the auctioneer, looking the picture of confidence in his apparent determination to make a good fight for the choice pieces in the sale. Coin dealers from Boston, Lowell, New York, Philadelphia, and other cities, were sandwiched among the buyers, coolly and calmly awaiting the bargains sure to offer in a sale where duplicates were frequently distributed through the well-stuffed catalogue. New faces were in the ranks, and all the regular attendants at sales of this character were present excepting a few whose pressing engagements kept them elsewhere. We recognised among buyers present: Diffendorf, Crosby, Root, Seavey, Elliott, Ex-Governor Lyons, Cohen, Haseltine, Maris, Randall, Dick (firm of Dick & Fitzgerald), Sampson, Fay, Cleveland, Ahlborn, Parmelee, Levick, De Burns, Emery, Poillion, Balmanno and George B. Mason.

Feurobert, an English or German buyer, succeeded in obtaining a few choice pieces. We have not the space to give the various incidents of the sale, but may, in a future number, refer to them. The total receipts of the sale were about six thousand two hundred dollars and may net Dr. Clay about five thousand dollars *currency* a dead loss to him (considering our offer for his cabinet of six thousand five hundred dollars *gold*) of at least one thousand dollars. The following are among the lots that realised the highest prices:

45. Woodward,	$77 00	702. Ahlborn,	$19 00
47. Woodward,	42 50	703. Parsons,	65 00
69. Elliott,	61 00	706. Root,	37 00
170. Seavey,	31 00	707. Col. Cohen,	12 00
137. Feurobert,	33 00	709. Parsons,	11 00
139. Seavey,	72 50	716. Col. Cohen,	26 00
54. Crosby,	18 50	728. Root,	23 00
193. Crosby,	190 00	763. Parsons,	43 00
236. Feurobert,	55 00	867. Woodward,	100 00
238. Crosby,	37 50	893. Dick,	21 00
323. Chapman,	17 00	894. Mason & Co.,	13 00
439. Mason & Co.,	10 00	896. Dick,	31 00
693. Parsons,	44 00	995. Root,	225 00
694. Mason & Co.,	15 00	996. Root,	40 00
695. Parsons,	52 50	997. Feurobert,	68 00
696. Seavey,	42 00	1064. Harris,	15 00
697. Seavey,	36 00	1070. Mason & Co.,	15 00
698. Woodward,	30 00	1203. Rutledge,	17 00
699. Parsons,	42 00	1340. Woodward,	11 00
700. Woodward,	25 00	1347. Mott,	16 00
701. Root,	67 50	1229. Woodward,	205 00

The last lot included 1229 to 1327, being the *unique* collection of Isle of Man Pieces, worth more than double the amount sold for, to British numismatists, if sold by the single specimen. The auctioneers struggled manfully, against the tide, however, to reach a total of eight thousand dollars for the collection. We trust when Dr. Clay reads this article, he will credit an American dealer with a slight knowledge of the value of his country's coinage; and should he again present a collection for public sale in America, he will have the foresight to put his property in proper shape as regards duplicates, cataloguing and general management. Mr. Woodward could have so divided Clay's cabinet, and so managed it as to have realised eight to ten thousand dollars for it, to say nothing of other parties, who have facilities not possessed by auctioneers for selling large collections.

MOTT'S TOKENS.

We are indebted to Henry Mott, of Montreal, Canada for tokens of kindness in permitting the use of the articles, in this number, entitled "Maryland Pattern Shilling" and "Vicissitudes of a Numismatist," from a book purchased by Mr. Mott at Clay's coin sale.

GENERAL WASHINGTON'S LETTER TO THE LADIES OF TRENTON.

By the kind attention of Mr. L. J. Parsons, of New Haven, Conn., we have been furnished and insert a photographic copy of one of the most interesting letters Washington ever penned. The original letter is in possession of Miss Armstrong, New Haven, and the photograph is by Good, of the same city, and good indeed it is, as any one can see by calling in our office and inspecting the document.

General Washington cannot leave this place without expressing his acknowledgments, to the Matrons and Young Ladies who received him in so noval and grateful a manner at the Triumphal Arch in Trenton, for the exquisite sensation he experienced in that affecting moment.—The astonishing contrast between his former and actual situation at the same spot—the elegant taste with which it was adorned for the present occasion—and the innocent appearance of the *White-robed Choir* who met him with the gratulatory song, have made such impressions on his remembrance as, he assures them, will never be effaced.

Trenton, April 21st, 1789.

COIN CABINETS.

The article on cabinets is crowded out for want of room. We, however, give the following letter in connection with the subject, and again solicit communications.

RONDOUT, N. Y., December 9, 1871.

GENTS—Having read your valuable magazine, and also having a little time to spare, I thought I would give you a description of my coin cabinet. My cabinet is about square, made very plain, of black walnut; its dimensions are two feet high, one and a half feet wide and one and three-quarter feet deep. The size of a drawer is consequently one and three-quarter feet deep by one and a half wide. My cabinet comprises twelve drawers, eleven of which are one inch deep, and one (No. 12) is three inches. All my drawers, except No. 7, are covered with bleached canton flannel—No. 7 is covered with black velveteen. H. C. W.

BLACK LIST.

C. A. BUCKLEY, GRANVILLE, NEW YORK.

[As this individual always sent drafts for all but one of the very small amounts he was indebted to us for, we are at a loss to know how he paid his last account which was due and asked for, by letter, on four different occasions. A letter received from him recently states that he paid the money long since. If paid, where is the inevitable draft? If too poor to pay a small bill, his impecuniosity would have been considered a satisfactory excuse, and the indebtedness cancelled; but, a wilful misrepresentation is inexcusable.—*Ed.*]

DISCONTINUED.

It is our purpose, at some future time, to either publish a postage stamp journal or transfer the publication to other parties, and we have, therefore, dropped the stamp portion of our title, and omitted from this date all postage stamp matter. We shall continue the stamp business, and soon publish a new and improved packet list.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., December 18, 1871.

MESSRS. MASON & CO.—GENTS: I have a U. S. cent of 1802, in my collection, without stems to the wreath and the obverse made with a broken die, the same as described by your Wisconsin correspondent in the December number of your magazine. I have cents of 1803, without stems to the wreath; a cent of 1835 with a double face.

I have *three* varieties of the Ring cents of 1787; United States and States United, and another with *coarse* rays from the sun, over the dial. Mr. Gill, of this city, has a U. S. cent of 1844 that is nearly an eighth of an inch larger in diameter than any other, and the bust is as much larger in proportion. Why is this thus?

Yours, truly, L. J. PARSONS.

NEW HAVEN, CONN., December 18, 1871.

MESSRS. MASON & CO.—GENTS: You have asked my opinion in regard to the United States cent having the date of 1830 and 1839 combined in one. I am perfectly satisfied that it is an 1839 cent, with the 1838 head, and that the peculiarity in the figure **9** was caused by a *broken die*; that is, the *narrow partition*—so to speak—between the upper and lower end of the nine, on the left hand side.

If this *nine* had been made over a *cipher* it would be as perfect on the left as on the right side. The same as the 1800 over 1799.

Yours truly, L. J. PARSONS.

CHANGE

Change is written on the face of everything, including the diminutive three cent United States shinplasters; and why should we not be addicted to change? This month our readers will observe we have changed our office from a *good* location to a *better* one; and also changed the character of our journal by dispensing with postage stamp matter, thus losing to our stamp readers the very little talent we possessed in a philatelic way and devoting more time to the higher branches of science. The time is not distant when stamp collecting in the United States will vie in interest and usefulness with its older cousins: Numismatology, Mineralogy, Conchology, Bibleography, Autography, etc. Our subscribers in the philatelic line were few and far between, and as we part with them we beg to apologize for the scanty feast set before them for the past four or five years, and assure them that our "over the water" cotemporaries contributed liberally of their valuable aid to entertain them with the "newest issues." We shall continue as heretofore to deal in stamps and have now in press a new "Packet List" for 1872.

OUR SECOND EDITORIAL TOUR.

An article prepared by the editor on the above subject is crowded out, but will appear next month.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. T. M., NEW YORK.—"Parsons" may be an assumed name for all we know; but of one thing rest assured, Mr. P. will find that he paid dear for the whistle, and that nearly all he purchased at the Clay sale were worth but one half the prices at any retail coin shop.

VERMONT AND NEW HAMPSHIRE PATRONS are informed that Mr. Mason could not carry out his programme, during his second tour to New England, as he was obliged to confine his labors to Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine.

SUBSCRIBERS FOR 1872.—The following parties will accept thanks for renewal of subscriptions: F. D. A., A. A., A. J. P., A. J. N., C. B., G. W. B., A. B., J. E. C., C. L., J. B. C., J. M. D.. R. S. E., M. D. G., J. G., JR., A. H., M. H., C. K., M. L., D. L., H. M., T. R. M., L. M., G. P., J. E. R., W. L., C. A. V. S, L. J. P., F. P. R., S. S. & Co., A. S. & Co., L. W., E. B. W., H. C. W., J. C. W., T. D. W., A. C. Z., P. R. (club of 15), S. A. (club of 5), U. G. (2 copies), A. R., E. B. T., T. C., A. H., A. E. H., G. P., D. L. H., R. K. All others answered by mail.

T., PORTSMOUTH, OHIO.—$27 at hand.

C. A. BUCKLEY, GRANVILLE, NEW YORK.—Your falsehood will be attended to in our next issue. You owe us the money, and we have written four letters the past six months, and at this late day you say you paid the bill several months since. *Too thin.*

T. P., LONDON, ENGLAND.—Send on all the numismatic works you can find. Letter by mail.

MONTREAL.—$5 received, with thanks for your generous conduct and with due consideration for forgetfulness. Under the circumstances we regret the initial appeared.

H. F. S., RANDOLPH.—"Grant" not received. Think you are mistaken about the money due. Please send account as you have it.

W. C. E., WARE.—Mint medals, size 32, at $1 25 each.

R. C., WASHINGTON.—Home again and prepared to fill orders.

L. J. P.—Thanks for favors.

T. H. T., PORTSMOUTH.—Account square. Will send coins soon.

H. J. K., BOSTON.—The Ameri, bought by "Parsons," for $52, in the Clay sale, was worth $15 only.

SALE OF PAPER MONEY.

Our next sale consists of a private collection of Colonial and Continental paper money, to take place at Bangs, Mervin & Co.'s Sale Rooms, No. 694 Broadway, New York, on the 31st of the present month. Included in this collection is a fine series of North Carolina paper money, issued during the rebellion. Particular attention is called to the Colonial notes of New England, especially the Vermont note (lot No. 40 of the catalogue), and rare and choice notes of the Southern States, &c. Catalogues will be mailed to all our patrons on the 8th inst. Bids executed as usual.

SALE OF PAPER MONEY.

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" Half Dollar, "	75
" Quarter Dollar, octagon or round,	50
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